



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

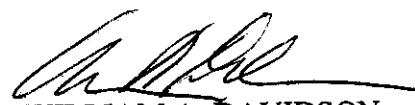
MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: SAF/AA  
1720 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington DC 20330-1720

SUBJECT: Charter Renewal for the United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board

The United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) provides a vital link between the AF and the nation's civilian science and technology community, helping to keep senior leadership apprised of relevant technology advances. The SAB offers independent technical advice on topics deemed critical and recommends application of technologies to improve AF capabilities. The SAB also provides independent review of the quality and relevance of AF Science and Technology programs. IAW DODI 5105.04, *Department of Defense Federal Advisory Committee Management Program*, August 6, 2007 justification for recommending renewal is provided for your consideration. Recommend renewal of the SAB's Charter for the term March 3, 2008 – March 2, 2010.

Please contact Ms. Pam Fitzgerald, at 703-614-1929, or [pamela.fitzgerald@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:pamela.fitzgerald@pentagon.af.mil) if you have any questions or require additional information.

  
WILLIAM A. DAVIDSON  
Administrative Assistant

Attachment:  
SAB Charter Renewal Justification

## **Charter Renewal Questions U.S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board**

### **1. Why is the AF SAB essential for AF business and the public interest?**

The Scientific Advisory Board is a link between the Air Force and the nation's civilian science and technology community. The SAB insures that AF leadership remains aware of AF relevant technology advances occurring in the civilian sector. To do this, the SAB fulfills several critical functions for the Air Force: 1) provides independent technical advice to Air Force (AF) leadership, 2) performs studies deemed critical by the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force, 3) recommends applications of technology to improve AF capabilities, and 4) provides an independent review of the quality and relevance of AF Science and Technology programs

### **2. Why can't the AF SAB's functions be performed by AF organizations, another existing committee/board, or other means such as a public hearing?**

Because SAB personnel come from outside the DoD, they provide technically relevant, independent, and unbiased assessments on key topics of interest to AF leadership. No AF organization can provide guidance perceived as unbiased and independent. The board draws on the nations leading scientists in Air Force unique technical disciplines. No other committee or board offers the required mix of personnel. Lastly, the sensitive nature of military technology issues requires the board to operate with sensitive and/or classified information that would be inappropriate for public hearings or other civilian forums.

### **3. How does the AF SAB plan to attain a fairly balanced membership?**

The SAB selects board membership by balancing areas of technical expertise, systems experience, corporate/academic affiliation, previous government experience, and other demographics. A major personnel challenge for the SAB is covering the numerous technology areas required by the Air Force to maintain technological superiority. The technical interests of the 52 members are tracked in 26 categories to ensure coverage of Air Force relevant technology areas.

### **4. How is the AF SAB accomplishing its mission?**

The SAB accomplishes its mission through study panels, advisory groups, and review panels. The Air Force Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) studies are undertaken on topics approved by the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Thus, these are topics the Air Force Senior Leadership sees as essential to carry out the Air Force Mission in the years ahead. SAB recommendations cover both operational concepts and technologies to support the warfighter - both essential elements of the ongoing USAF transformation. The SAB supports the maintenance of superior science and technology in the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) through quality reviews which assess the quality and relevance of the Air Force mission of research supported by AFRL.

5. What are the SAB accomplishments since last Charter renewal?

Since March 2008, the SAB has completed 7 full (summer) studies, 1 quick-look study, and reviewed all 10 AFRL technical directorates at the explicit request of the Air Force Secretary and Chief of Staff. All findings and recommendations from these activities have been documented and presented to the Air Force Secretary as well as numerous other members of senior Air Force leadership and, in the case of one study and at the direction of the Secretary of the Air Force, members of Congress.

6. What would the impact be of discontinuation of the SAB to the Air Force?

The AF SAB is a unique advisory capability. Discontinuation of the AF SAB would eliminate AF leadership's access to independent technology assessments from the nations leading civilian scientists speaking as a single, coordinated voice. In addition, without the AF SAB, the nations leading scientists would not have the venue to quickly and directly apprise AF leadership of new technical advances related to air, space and cyber power.